



Serial No. 10/755,967    Amended claims    Inventor, Armstrong R.

1.    ( first time amended ) A self-assisting post surgical device for patients that have had some type of surgery which affects the abdominal region which allows them to gradually raise themselves from a supine position to a sitting position and vice-versa, said device comprising

        a first gripping section having a series of individual cylindrical members flexibly and coaxially linked together so as to allow a user to haul himself or herself up to a sitting position by grasping, consecutively, said individual members and pulling oneself upright,

        a second section of said device having an adjustable portion thereof whereby the device may be anchored on a patient's bed or portions thereof to provide a firm attachment, and said second section being flexibly attached to said first gripping section,

        said first gripping section comprising a series of hand pieces linked together by a strap [means], said members affixed to said strap [means] by securing a fold section on said strap [means], said members being of a molded nylon composition and having spherical end portions.

2.    ( first time amended ) A device as in claim 1 wherein each said member is a [solid] hollow, generally cylindrical portion with a non-slip gripping surface sleeved thereon or

coated thereon, said gripping surface being compressible by the hands of a user so as to allow a firm grip[.], said members each having at least one chamber therein to allow for compressibility of the member by the user grasping said gripping surface.

3. ( first time amended ) A device as in claim 1 wherein said members are made of [a thermoplastic elastomer compound.] polyhexamethyleneadipamide.

4. ( first time amended ) A device as in claim [3] 2 wherein said device includes identical members linked together by the second section of the device which comprises a polypropylene or nylonwebbing strap[.], said strap having folds which are accommodated by the chambers within said members.

5. ( first time amended ) A device as in claim 1 wherein said second section of said device comprises a Nylon strap which can be looped around portions of a patient's bed to secure said device thereto and said gripping portion is made of a thermoplastic elastomer.

6. ( as filed ) A device as in claim 5 wherein said strap has a male and female buckle system for securing it around the end portion of a bed.

7. ( as filed ) A device as in claim 6 and including a plastic snap buckle having an adjustment means thereon on said strap so the length of said strap may be adjusted and be quickly detached from the portion of a bed.

7. ( first time amended ) A medical aid for assisting users who do not have the abdominal strength to raise themselves from a supine position or vice-versa, said aid comprising

a first portion having a series of elongated cylindrical hand grip members connected one to the other in series, said [connected] connection allowing for twisting movement and to provide a user with means to pull said aid, grip by grip, toward themselves, to raise themselves, said members being connected coaxially.

a second portion having a strap portion adapted to be secured to a bed or other permanent structure so as to anchor one end of the aid against movement, thereby allowing the gradual pulling of said grip members by a user to raise said user to a sitting or standing position or vice-versa,

said hand grip members comprising a series of identical cylindrical members which have apertures at each end designed to accommodate the strap portion of said second portion and to affix each said member to said strap portion[.],

and said members being made of a form of molded Nylon with a gripping coating or sleeve made of a thermoplastic elastomer fitted thereon to allow the user to firmly grip the members.

9. An aid as in claim 8 wherein said grip members are elongated and have a thermoplastic elastomer gripping surface thereon so as to allow the user to maintain a grip thereon without slipping off and have a hollow chamber within.

10. ( Cancel Claim 10 ) An aid as in claim 9 wherein said grip members are compactible foam designed to prevent slipping by a users hand and are made of Dynaflex® TPE compound or Santoprene rubber 111-35.

11. ( New claim ) An aid as in claim 9 wherein said hand grip members are compactible foam.

12. ( New claim ) An aid as in claim 9 wherein said hand grip members are made of rubber material.